

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A fuel cell stack antifreeze system that purges a plurality of fuel cell stacks connected in parallel, comprising:

a compressor that supplies pressurized cathode gas to each fuel cell stack of said plurality of fuel cell stacks; and

a controller that deactivates a first group of one or more of said plurality of fuel cell stacks and maintains operation of a second group of one or more of said plurality of fuel cell stacks, wherein said second group powers said compressor and said compressor purges excess fluid from said first group using said pressurized cathode gas.

2. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 1 wherein said controller deactivates said second group after purging said excess fluid from said first group.

3. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 2 wherein said controller activates said first group, wherein said first group is used to heat said second group.

4. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 3 further comprising a coolant system that circulates a heat transfer fluid through said plurality of fuel cell stacks, wherein waste heat from said first group is transferred via said heat transfer fluid to said second group.

5. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 3 further comprising a heating system including an electrical heater associated with each of said plurality of fuel cell stacks, wherein said first group powers said electrical heater that heats said second group.

6. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 1 further comprising an operator input that selectively generates a shutdown signal, wherein said controller deactivates said first group in response to said shutdown signal.

7. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 1 further comprising an operator input that selectively generates a reduced load demand, wherein said controller deactivates said first group in response to said reduced load demand.

8. (original) The fuel cell stack antifreeze system of claim 7 wherein a number of fuel cell stacks in said first group is based on a number of fuel cell stacks required to provide said reduced power demand.

Claims 9-16. (cancelled)

17. (original) A fuel cell system, comprising:
a plurality of fuel cell stacks connected in parallel;
an input device that generates one of a shutdown signal and a load demand signal;

a compressor that supplies pressurized cathode gas to each of said plurality of fuel cell stacks; and

a controller that deactivates a first group of one or more of said plurality of fuel cell stacks and that maintains operation of a second group of one or more of said plurality of fuel cell stacks based on said one of said shutdown signal and said load demand signal, wherein said second group powers said compressor and said compressor purges excess fluid from said first group using said pressurized cathode gas.

18. (original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 wherein said controller deactivates said second group after purging said excess fluid from said first group.

19. (original) The fuel cell system of claim 18 wherein said controller activates said first group in response to a start-up signal generated by said input device, wherein said first group is used to heat said second group.

20. (original) The fuel cell system of claim 19 further comprising a coolant system that circulates a heat transfer fluid through said plurality of fuel cell stacks, wherein waste heat from said first group is transferred via said heat transfer fluid to said second group.

21. (original) The fuel cell system of claim 19 further comprising a heating system including an electrical heater associated with each of said plurality of fuel cell stacks, wherein said first group powers said electrical heater that heats said second group.

22. (original) The fuel cell system of claim 17 wherein a number of fuel cell stacks of said first group is based on a number of fuel cell stacks required to provide said load command.